REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 37-70 and 107-140 were pending in the application, of which Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140 are independent. Claims 1-36 and 71-106 were previously withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action dated May 9, 2002, Claims 37-70 and 107-140 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and the specification was objected to. Following this amendment, Claims 37-70 and 107-140 remain in this application.

I. Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action dated May 9, 2002, the Examiner objected to the specification stating that the Summary of the Invention section does not include a description of the claimed subject matter. The specification has been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes this objection and adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can at least be found in the specification on page 13, lines 14-16 and page 17, lines 4-15, and in the claims as originally filed.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 37-70 and 107-140 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,709 ("*Uhl*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,249,687 ("*Rosenbaum*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,667,078 ("*Walach*"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,518,122 ("*Tilles*"). Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140 have

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been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter. Support for this amendment can be at least found in the specification on page 13, lines 14-16 and page 17, lines 4-15.

Amended Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that they recite, for example, "using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level".

Uhl, Rosenbaum, Walach, and *Tilles* disclose mail processing systems. However, neither *Uhl, Rosenbaum, Walach,* nor *Tilles,* either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level, as recited in amended Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140. Accordingly, independent Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140 patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 37, 47, 58, 69, 70, 107, 117, 128, 139, and 140.

Dependent Claims 38-46, 48-57, 59-68, 108-116, 118-127, and 129-138 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claims 37, 47, 58, 107, 117, and 128, and by virtue of their respective dependency upon independent Claims 37, 47, 58, 107, 117, and 128. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 38-46, 48-57, 59-68, 108-116, 118-127, and 129-138.

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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 12, 2002

By: _____

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APPENDIX

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Summary of the Invention as follows:

[Apparatus and methods consistent with the present invention overcome the shortcomings of the conventional systems by using an identification code on the back of each mailpiece as a redundant source of identification for identifying and processing mail in a mail sorting system.

Apparatus and methods consistent with the present invention process mailpiece information in a mail processing device using sorter application software. When a first prompt is received from an operator of the mail processing device, a connection is initiated between the mail processing device and an identification code server, via the sorter application software. Mailpiece information is processed between the mail processing device and the identification code service, via the sorter application software. When a second prompt is received from the operator of the mail processing device, the connection between the mail processing device and the identification code server is terminated.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

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It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention as claimed.]

In one aspect, a mail processing system for processing a mailpiece comprises a mail processing device, an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device and configured for reading an identification code from a mailpiece processed by the mail processing device, and sorter application software for communicating between the mail processing device and an identification code server and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In another aspect a method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software, and processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect a system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises a reading component configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software, and a processing component configured to process mailpiece information

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between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software, and a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software, and means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

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In yet another aspect, a mail processing system for processing a mailpiece comprises a mail processing device, an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device and configured for reading an identification code from a mailpiece processed by the mail processing device, and sorter application hardware for communicating between the mail processing device and an identification code server and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware, and processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises a reading component configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware, and a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior

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processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware, and a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

In yet another aspect, a system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device comprises means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader, means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware, and means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

Both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

37. A mail processing system for processing a mailpiece, comprising

a mail processing device;

an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device and configured for reading an identification code from a mailpiece processed by the mail processing device; and

sorter application software for communicating between the mail processing device and an identification code server and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

47. A method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising [the steps of]:

reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and

processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

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58. A system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:

a reading component configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and

a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

69. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising:

a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the

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mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

70. A system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:

means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application software; and

means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application software and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

107. A mail processing system for processing a mailpiece, comprising

a mail processing device;

an identification code reader connected to the mail processing device and configured for reading an identification code from a mailpiece processed by the mail processing device; and

sorter application hardware for communicating between the mail processing device and an identification code server and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

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117. A method for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising [the steps of]:

reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

128. A system for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:

a reading component configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

a transmitting component configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

a processing component configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

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139. A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, the computer readable code comprising:

a reading module configured to read an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

a transmitting module configured to transmit the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

a processing module configured to process mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

140. A system of processing a mailpiece by a mail processing device, comprising:

means for reading an identification code from the mailpiece, using an identification code reader;

means for transmitting the identification code to an identification code server, via sorter application hardware; and

means for processing mailpiece information between the mail processing device and the identification code server, via the sorter application hardware and using the

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identification code to access results of prior processing of the mailpiece from the identification code server to ensure the mailpiece is processed to a desired level.

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